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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,601	09/16/2005	Mathijs Theodorus Van De Ven	3135-048013	9486

7590 01/26/2010  
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EXAMINER
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PRASAD, CHANDRIKA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2839

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/26/2010

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary****Application No.**

10/519,601

**Applicant(s)**VAN DE VEN, MATTHJS  
THEODORUS**Examiner**

CHANDRIKA PRASAD

**Art Unit**

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 19-24 and 27-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert (4383239) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

Robert shows a gripping means for a line sensor for gripping a signal line 4 comprising at least one rigid component 3 adapted to grip a sleeve of the signal line wherein the gripping means includes a spring element 2 made of a flexible material, which engages and exerts a biasing force on the rigid component and away from the signal line to remove load of or loads on the rigid component . The spring element is embodied as a resilient sleeve on which the rigid component is placed. The spring element is placed between two rigid components 3 and 1. The rigid components are fastened for fastening the gripping means to the signal line. An edge of the rigid component is at right angles to the centre line of the signal line. The gripping means can be released or partially released from the signal line. The gripping means is at least partially combined with the sleeve. The gripping means is provided with a holding member 1 and is remote from the side connected to the signal line. The signal line is influenced by loads on the signal line. The signal line passes in a smooth line in the gripping means. The rigid component forms part of the sleeve. The signal line is embodied in a flexible sealing element.

But Robert does not show signal line to be an optical cable. Optical cables are now-a-days widely used for signal transmission. AAPA (Page 1, line 7-18 of the specification of the instant invention filled 12/2\*/04) shows the use of an optical fiber for such use. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to use an optical cable as a signal line due to its capability to transmit signal at high speed as shown by AAPA and which are widely used and well known now-a-days.

3. Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robert (4383239) as modified by AAPA and further in view of Hinze (5703754).

Robert as modified by AAPA shows all the features of these claims except the hardness of the rigid component being between 10 to 100 shores. Materials of such hardness are well known. Hinze discloses the use of materials with such hardness. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the instant invention to make the rigid component of hardness between 10 to 100 shores as taught by Hinze, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment/arguments necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See

MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

***Contact Information***

6. Any correspondence to this action may be mailed to:

**Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chandrika Prasad at (571) 272-2099. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor can be reached at (571) 272-2800 ext 39. The fax number is 571-273-8300.

/Chandrika Prasad/  
Primary examiner  
January 21, 2010